

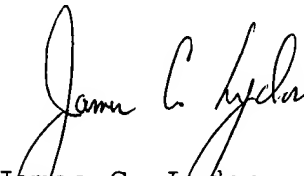
New U.S. Patent Application  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**PATENT**

Prompt and favorable examination of this application are  
earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:  
Abstract of the Disclosure